

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 NIC-01 IO-14

SAM-01 DRC-01 /173 W

----- 028259

R 241535Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9147

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7881

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MARR, UR, US, XO

SUBJECT: PRAVDA ALLEGES U.S. INTEREST IN SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS

REF: MOSCOW 6979

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1. SUMMARY: PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON MAY 23 ALLEGING U.S. INTEREST IN USE OF SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS SEEMS TO BE PART OF DEVELOPING PATTERN OF CRITICISM OF U.S. ACTIVITIES ALONG SOUTHERN PERIMETER OF AFRO-ASIA. EMBASSY VIEWS THIS AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF SOVIET SENSITIVITY REGARDING INDIAN OCEAN. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL COMMENTATOR VLADIMIR OZEROV CONTENTS IN MAY 23 ISSUE OF PRAVDA THAT POLITICAL CHANGE IN PORTUGAL, AND PROBABLE EFFECTS OF THIS CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, HAS PUSHED SOUTH AFRICA FURTHER INTO POLITICAL ISOLATION. OZEROV ALLUDES TO RECENT U.S. VISIT OF TWO SOUTH AFRICA OFFICIALS AND ACCUSES SOUTH AFRICA OF FRANTICALLY ATTEMPTING TO FIND WAY OUT OF DILEMMA BY TRYING TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH THE PENTAGON, OFFERING USE OF ITS PORTS TO U.S. NAVY IN RETURN FOR PENTAGON'S SUPPORT FOR CREATION OF AN "IRON FIST" WHICH WOULD ENSURE SOUTH AFRICA SECURITY AND CONTINUITY OF ITS RACIST POLICIES. HE CHARACTERIZES THIS EFFORT AS AN ATTEMPT TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE "OPEN MILITARY INTERVENTION" FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN (IZ-ZA OKEANA) TO FORESTALL ANY CRISIS WHICH MIGHT DEVELOP IN OR AROUND SOUTH AFRICA.

3. OZEROV ASSESSES THAT PENTAGON USE OF ITS PORTS WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE FULFILLMENT OF PENTAGON STRATEGISTS' INTENTIONS REGARDING SOUTH ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEAN. HE CONTENTS THAT THIS SOUTH AFRICA OFFER WILL FIND SUPPORT IN MILITARIST NATO CIRCLES, SINCE NATO IS NOW CONSIDERING BROADENING AREA OF NAVAL OPERATION IN SOUTH ATLANTIC. OZEROV ENDS WITH WARNING, COUCHED IN USUAL TERMS, THAT INCREASED MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN NATO AND SOUTH AFRICA COULD SERIOUSLY AGGRAVATE TENSIONS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE SEEING INCREASED SOVIET CRITICISM OF ALLEGED U.S. INTENTIONS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFSHORE LINES OF DEFENSE ALONG THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN PERIMETER OF AFRO-ASIAN CONTINENT: CONTINUING CRITICISM OF BUILDUP OF FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA: RED STAR COMMENTARY ON APRIL 28 "REVEALING" ALLEGED U.S. PLAN TO ESTABLISH A DEFENSE LINE GUAM-Saipan-PALAU; AND THIS WARNING ON NAVAL COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. THIS GENERAL PATTERN REFLECTS INCREASING SOVIET SENSITIVITY
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REGARDING INDIAN OCEAN AS WELL AS APPROACHES TO INDIAN OCEAN. EMBASSY HAS ALREADY POINTED OUT (REFTEL) GREAT IMPORTANCE TO USSR OF INDIAN OCEAN AS STRATEGIC LINE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND FAR EASTERN USSR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, PORT FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW07881
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740131-0672
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740520/aaaaarbz.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 6979
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRAVDA ALLEGES U.S. INTEREST IN SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MARR, UR, US, XO, SF, PRAVDA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005